



Annual Report 2004



LIBRARY OF
MICHIGAN
FOUNDATION



**Library of
Michigan**

Annual Report 2004

From The Library of Michigan and Foundation Leadership

Dear Friends,

Well, here we are another year older and, we think, wiser about the ways in which to best deliver the latest and greatest in library service to our customers. To be sure, fiscal 2004 was a challenging year in many ways, with all of us having to do so very much more with so very much less in terms of funding and staffing resources. True to librarians' form, though, we continued to look for and uncover or create new ways to achieve our goals.

We want to thank you for your sustained interest in and support of the Library of Michigan and the Library of Michigan Foundation. This report highlights our achievements, developments and long-term goals.

Whether catering to our littlest readers through the "Michigan Reads!" one-state, one-preschool-book program, anticipating the increasingly complex information needs of the many students, professionals and hobbyists who use the library, implementing planned enhancements to the Michigan eLibrary, or energizing the genealogy community with a full slate of Family History Month programs, our chief aim is to provide the best service possible to every patron.

With the generous support of federal Library Services and Technology Act funds, federal Reed Act unemployment funds and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grants to help libraries keep current with technology and provide Internet access, it's clear the Library of Michigan has partnerships with organizations that show commitment to the value of library service.

Finally, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the individual supporters of our wonderful facility and its collections. Many people believe that the library is the heart of the community. It's the place, often, where people go to gather, to talk, to study, to learn, to explore, to ... transcend. For the Library of Michigan, none of that would be possible without the thoughtful commitment of our own community of givers. Our library is your library. It belongs to all of us, the people of Michigan.

This year's annual report takes a look back at a year filled with challenges and successes. Take a moment to share in our history, our accomplishments in the face of adversity, and our unyielding commitment to customer service.

Sincerely,



Nancy R. Robertson
Acting State Librarian
Library of Michigan



Judith K. Moore
Executive Director
Library of Michigan Foundation

The Library of Michigan

Mission

The Library of Michigan promotes, advocates and consistently works to achieve the highest level of library service to the State of Michigan, its government, its libraries and its residents.

Serving the Public

Through a variety of programs and initiatives, the Library of Michigan strives to anticipate and meet the needs and interests of libraries and the people who use them. In 2004, the Library of Michigan focused on a number of key programs designed to reach the largest number of Michigan residents. Perhaps the most empowering of these is the Michigan eLibrary (MeL) at <http://mel.org>, the ever-evolving virtual library that seeks to provide – for all libraries and residents – equitable access to a core set of information resources.

Michigan eLibrary

This past year was one of great positive change for MeL. The Library of Michigan contracted with Innovative Interfaces, Inc. (Emeryville, Calif.) and the Michigan Library Consortium (Lansing, Mich.) for the development and operation of the new MeL search gateway and MeLCat, the statewide resource-sharing program for libraries. These partnerships helped lay the groundwork for long-term enhancements to MeL, including:



- a statewide gateway to library information, with a single search interface that gives users seamless access to the \$3.6 million of MeL databases, the MeL Internet collection, digitized collections and the statewide library catalog.
- an online statewide catalog of the collective holdings of participating MeLCat libraries (expected to eventually include upwards of 12 million unique titles); and the ability for patrons in good standing at participating libraries to search for, locate and request delivery of materials to their local libraries.

In order to facilitate the MeLCat resource sharing process, the Library of Michigan granted LSTA funds to the Michigan Library Consortium (MLC) to develop a statewide delivery task force. Their charge was to investigate various models of statewide delivery and write a request for proposal for a system to use in Michigan. As a result of this collaborative project, MLC signed an agreement with ProMed Delivery, Inc. to provide statewide library-to-library delivery of requested books, videos, and other "lendable" items. By establishing a flat-rate fee for participating libraries to use this service, this partnership has made it possible for participating libraries to share their resources in a very cost-effective manner.

In January 2004, the Library of Michigan announced the addition of the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) to MeL. Produced by the Turfgrass Information Center that is housed within the Michigan State University Libraries, TGIF indexes the literature of turfgrass. This resource is a tool that helps

turf researchers and practitioners – such as landscape architects, park and cemetery managers, golf course superintendents and athletic field managers – find the **specialized information** they need to do their jobs more effectively.

In the spring of 2004, the Library of Michigan and MSU Libraries created a unified collection of their catalogs and announced that MSU Libraries would host the **combined collection** and provide maintenance and upgrades of the software that operates the system. This partnership will result in long-term cost savings and operating efficiencies for the Library of Michigan and provides access to materials for Library of Michigan and MSU Library Patrons.

Quality Programming

Michigan Reads

The Library of Michigan ambitiously launched its “Michigan Reads!” one-state, one-preschool-book program in April this year. The program, with Governor Jennifer Granholm as honorary chair, highlighted the importance of reading early and often to children, especially during the critical developmental ages of 0-5. The chief goals of “Michigan Reads!” are to encourage family bonding through reading and to increase awareness of Michigan’s public libraries as providers of programs and services that lay the foundation for reading and school success.

Online voting determined that “Barnyard Song” by Michigan author Rhonda Gowler Greene was the book of choice for 2004. A delightful story of what happens when a bad case of flu strikes the farm and the familiar barnyard chorus is replaced with sneezes and coughs, “Barnyard Song” was easy to work into a variety of complementary library programs.

The Library of Michigan and a hard-working committee of librarians created a program that involved day care centers, local libraries, and an online toolkit that provided everything needed to craft an effective, interactive day for the kids. Several sponsors, including Genesee District Library, the Library of Michigan Foundation, Thomson Gale, Michigan Center for the Book, the Michigan Humanities Council and several others, contributed funding and in-kind services to ensure a successful program.



Family History Month

Beginning family-history sleuths had the chance to hear from the experts at the Michigan Genealogical Council Seminar, where session leaders focused on a number of Michigan-specific topics like using local newspapers in family history research. The **Michigan Oral History Association Conference**, also held during Family History Month, provided a look at how this unique means of sharing stories can aid family-history researchers.

Rounding out the month, the library offered Local History Day, at which local authors Jim MacLean, Craig Whitford and Michael Rodriguez talked about their books, "Lansing: City on the Grand, 1836-1939" (MacLean/Whitford) and "R.E. Olds and Industrial Lansing" (Rodriguez). All in all, Family History Month 2004 was a unique opportunity for anyone with an interest in their ancestry to discover the many and varied resources offered by the Library of Michigan.

Libraries Without Walls

The Library of Michigan's Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH) meets an important need for those Michigan residents who are unable to read or view traditionally formatted books or movies. SBPH also offers a number of services that provide adaptive technology to make it easier for more residents to enjoy activities that others may take for granted.

In May 2004, SBPH hosted the Libraries Without Walls conference, a one-day event designed to introduce, demonstrate and provide to librarians, educators, and patrons the ways in which **adaptive technology** meets the information needs of persons with visual or physical impairments via the Internet, online catalogs and electronic media. The 100+ librarians, educators and patrons who attended the conference learned a great deal about new products and trends in the field of adaptive technology.

Michael E. Ellis, president and CEO of MEE Inc., one of the vendors who attended, said the conference was important because it helped show how technology is **removing barriers** to knowledge for the blind and visually impaired. "The universal accessibility of a computer and e-text information plus the portability of this media through small player/readers is placing information and knowledge, which is found in a library, literally at the finger tips of the blind," said Ellis. "Libraries Without Walls is an excellent way for individuals to learn about the ease and wealth of wisdom which they can obtain from their LBPH or public library. This conference exposes patrons to the year's technological improvements ... and the hands-on experiences give the individuals power to spend precious resources wisely."

Michigan Center for the Book

The Michigan Center for the Book is a program of the Library of Michigan and its affiliates. It was formally chartered in 1986 as the Michigan affiliate of the National Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. The center's chief goal is to promote an awareness of books, reading, literacy, authors and Michigan's rich literary heritage.



In December 2003, the Michigan Center for the Book received formal commendation from the American Association of School Librarians (a division of the American Library Association) for the center's creation and launch of the **Michigan Authors and Illustrators** database. AASL annually awards certificates of commendation in recognition of valuable contributions to the field of school librarianship.



*Michigan
Center
for the Book*

The authors and illustrators database, a fully searchable online resource available through the Michigan eLibrary, offers comprehensive information on authors and illustrators who were born in Michigan, who live in Michigan, or who have written or illustrated books about or set in Michigan. Continually updated, the database includes biographical information, bibliographies, awards won by the authors/illustrators, photos, book covers and personal statements, and even references whether the author is available for presentations.

Statewide Funding

Library Services and Technology Act

In 2004, the Library of Michigan awarded funding to support MeL and to a variety of library projects through the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program. LSTA grants help libraries accomplish two key goals: the utilization of technology for **enhanced information sharing** among libraries and between libraries and other community agencies, and the creation and support of programs that make library resources more available to urban and rural locales, low-income residents, and others with limited library access.

LSTA grants to Michigan libraries are awarded in two competitive categories: 1) collaboration and partnership and 2) Michigan eLibrary (MeL) preparedness. This year, 17 projects statewide received \$622,929 in LSTA funding. Coupled with a 20-percent match requirement in the "collaboration and partnership" funding area and extensive in-kind cost sharing, well over \$700,000 was actually spent on these projects. This cash-match requirement leverages LSTA dollars so that a greater number of local library projects may receive funding.

Reed/Gates Broadband Grants

In June 2004, the Library of Michigan administered nearly \$800,000 in grants for broadband upgrades in public libraries around the state. With funds from the federal Reed Act and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, these grants enabled libraries to enhance the connectivity of their public computers to provide quicker access to Internet resources. The spirit of this grant falls directly in line with the Library of Michigan's mission to provide **first-rate access** to the best information, no matter where in the state a person may live.

More than 240 main and branch libraries across the state received Reed/Gates Broadband program grants, including libraries in several communities with projects designated for Governor Granholm's Cool Cities pilot program: Bay City, Flint, Jackson, Marquette, Port Huron, Portland, Saginaw, Saugatuck and Ypsilanti. Priority was given to libraries in areas of high unemployment.

Library of Michigan Service Division Statistics

For Years Ended

Sept. 30, 2004 and Sept. 30, 2003

Requests/Transactions

FY2004

FY2003

Circulation/Directional Requests*	27,801	29,594
Reference/Research Requests*	38,006	43,471
Interlibrary Loan Requests*	14,527	15,095
Number Main/Law Items Circulated	15,236	15,717

(*includes phone, e-mail and walk-in)

Transactions by Patron Group

FY2004

FY2003

General Public	68,833	75,887
Libraries	18,541	19,145
State Government Agencies	9,098	10,072

Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

FY2004

FY2003

Circulation	257,766	275,177
Interlibrary Loan	6,011	2,294
Reference/Reader Advisory Requests	11,109	11,221

Annual Report 2004

Greetings,

On behalf of the Library of Michigan Foundation Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present the Foundation's 2003/04 annual report. Our work to support the special programs and collections of the Library of Michigan is made possible thanks to the generous support of our donors, without whom several outstanding activities would not have taken place. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank them for their philanthropy.



Albert F. Zehnder
Chair
Library of Michigan Foundation

As we reflect on this past year, we are particularly proud of two new literary statewide initiatives we helped fund – *Michigan Reads!* and the Michigan Notable Books program. Both were designed to promote a literate society: *Michigan Reads!* as an early childhood literacy program that instills a love of reading and learning for children ages 0-5, and Michigan Notable Books as a way to promote reading of Michigan books and authors. What a wonderful way to inspire our very young, their families and residents everywhere in our state to share in the joy of reading!

In May 2004 our Foundation presented the first ever 'A Night for Notables,' a celebration of the Michigan Notable Books authors. It was a memorable evening as authors, publishers, library patrons, donors and fans came together to join the festivities in this stunning building, the Michigan Library and Historical Center. Together we honored 20 remarkable authors whose fiction and non-fiction titles showcased Michigan's history, people and traditions at their best. How can one not feel proud and fortunate to live in a state with such a rich literary culture as ours?

During a challenging year when the Library of Michigan coped with having to cut down on expenses, we were pleased to be able to help fund the purchase of new materials for the Abrams Historical Genealogy Collection, the Rare Book Collection and the Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. These collections and resources serve hundreds of thousands of people every year and must remain vital and up-to-date in order for our State Library to provide a valuable service to the people of Michigan.

Lastly, we were very thrilled to award the 2004 State Librarian's Excellence Award, this year sponsored by Southfield-based Hantz Group, a perfect partner for this project. This award draws attention to the outstanding work that all Michigan libraries do and the key role they play within their communities. The Portage District Library was selected for its excellence in customer service, and the Ann Arbor District Library and the Troy Public Library earned Citations of Excellence.

In closing, I thank and applaud the Library of Michigan Foundation Board and staff for their continued focus and dedication to helping support our State Library. It is a pleasure working alongside all of you for the benefit of this great institution, the Library of Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Albert F. Zehnder".

Albert F. Zehnder
Library of Michigan Foundation Chair

The Library of Michigan Foundation

Mission Statement

The Library of Michigan Foundation raises funds to support special programs, services and collections of the Library of Michigan.

A Foundation of Support

The Library of Michigan Foundation was established in 1985 to raise funds for special programs of the Library of Michigan that are otherwise not provided for through state or federal funding. The foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization governed by an independent board of directors who represent different geographical locations in Michigan.

Since its inception, the Library of Michigan Foundation has raised more than \$4 million to support numerous Library of Michigan programs and services. This amount includes \$800,000 in private funds for the construction of the Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room (which opened in fall 2003), as well as more than \$1.8 million to build the Abrams Genealogy Collection. A draw for researchers and visitors from throughout the Great Lakes region as well as across the country, the Abrams collection is considered to be among the 10 best genealogy collections nationwide.

During 2004, the foundation sought to fund programs with the strongest opportunity to reach the widest number of Michigan residents. The foundation provided critical support for collection development and special projects during a year of considerable budget challenges. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the foundation was able to:

- acquire new cemetery records, family histories, and birth/death records;
- present six genealogy workshops, catering to both beginners and more experienced family historians;
- provide a much-needed scanner for the Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room, enabling patrons to have copies of maps, images and text from the collection;
- help the Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped purchase new-release videos for its collection of described videos;
- support the continuing-education efforts of two staff members who attended national conferences on genealogy and library services for the visually impaired; and
- support and advocate for statewide literary and literacy initiatives.

The foundation is proud to support these activities because they each translate directly into better customer service for Library of Michigan customers and a broader reach for the diverse mix of programs the library offers.

Michigan Reads! & Michigan Notable Books Program

In 2004, the Library of Michigan Foundation supported "Michigan Reads!" – a "one-state, one-preschool-book" program – and the Michigan Notable Books program.

Michigan Reads! encourages a collective reading experience for children ages 0 to 5 and their parents, caregivers and teachers, all in an effort to boost literacy and instill a lifelong love of learning and reading. Michigan Notable Books promotes Michigan books and

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authors and seeks to inspire residents to explore and embrace the history, culture and lore of the Great Lakes state. Both of these programs encourage people to visit their libraries and highlight the important role that libraries, as cultural and educational institutions, play in anchoring communities statewide.

'A Night for Notables'

In 2004, the Library of Michigan Foundation presented the first annual "A Night for Notables" to honor the 20 talented authors whose works (published the previous year) were selected as Michigan Notable Books. Library donors, publishers, booksellers, authors and fans gathered at the Library of Michigan for a spring evening reception, which also marked the start of that year's Michigan Week events.

Several of the "Notable" authors were on hand to sign books and mingle with an enthusiastic audience. Guests were entertained and challenged by the evening's keynote speaker, Tim Skubick, political commentator and anchor of the weekly public television program, "Off the Record." Skubick's first book – also titled "Off the Record" – was included among the 2004 Michigan Notable Books selections. State Librarian Christie Brandau praised the authors' outstanding talent with a moving tribute. "A Night for Notables" was indeed a noteworthy and enriching event for everyone, as guests were able to talk with the authors, ask questions about their work and, hopefully, be inspired about the powerfully simple experience of getting lost in a good read.



State Librarian's Excellence Award

Every year, the Library of Michigan Foundation pays tribute to the innovative work done statewide by libraries of all sizes, recognizing one that exemplifies excellence in customer service. State Librarian Christie Brandau announced the award, this year sponsored by Southfield-based Hantz Group, at the Michigan Library Association annual conference in Traverse City. Portage District Library earned top honors in 2004, receiving bragging rights along with the \$5,000 cash award. The Library of Michigan also awarded citations of excellence to the Ann Arbor District Library and the Troy Public Library.

Voices of Civil Rights

Partnering with AARP and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the Library of Michigan Foundation hosted "Voices of Civil Rights," a reception celebrating the official Michigan kick-off of a nationwide project to collect and preserve American memories of the struggle for justice and equal rights. "Voices of Civil Rights" was timed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic Brown v. Board of Education case. The personal and oral histories recorded through this project will become part of the permanent collection of the Library of Congress.

The May 19 reception, co-sponsored by AARP Michigan, the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus and the Library of Michigan Foundation, featured student re-enactments of selected personal stories of the civil rights struggles.

Library of Michigan Foundation

Statement of Activities

for the Year Ended Sept. 30, 2004

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Contributions	\$40,294	\$183,220	\$453,093	\$676,607
In-kind Contributions	64,369	.0	.0	64,369
Workshops	2,905	.0	.0	2,905
Investment Income	70,094	6,813	.0	76,907
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	163,344	(163,344)	.0	.0
Total Support and Revenue	\$341,006	\$26,689	\$453,093	\$820,788

GRANTS AND EXPENSES

Grants to the Library of Michigan	\$167,825	.0	.0	167,825
Supporting Services				
Administrative & General	186,746	.0	.0	186,746
(including in-kind expenses of \$64,369)				
Fund-raising	7,012	.0	.0	7,012
Total Expenses	\$361,583	0	0	\$361,583

Change in Net Assets	(\$20,577)	\$26,689	\$453,093	\$459,205
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NET ASSETS

Beginning Net Assets	\$272,486	\$1,048,495	\$128,599	\$1,449,580
Ending Net Assets	\$251,909	\$1,075,184	\$581,692	\$1,908,785

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The Library of Michigan Foundation gratefully acknowledges its loyal donors who, through their generous financial support, provided funding for many special projects at the Library of Michigan throughout fiscal year 2004. This list includes donors whose financial gifts were received between Oct. 1, 2003, and Sept. 30, 2004. A heartfelt "thank you" to you all!

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*Maya Angelou: "I have found
that among its other benefits,
giving liberates the soul of the
giver."*

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